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BAMBOO FURNITURE.

NOTHING can be more artistic and desirable for summer furnishing than bamboo furniture. Bamboo is truly a wonderful material, lending itself by every quality of its nature to the special service of man. Its larger stems combine strength and lightness in a manner unequalled by either timber or metal. It grows broadcast over vast regions in the Eastern hemisphere, where it seems to supply almost every human requirement, and where the feathery masses of its foliage hanging over road and river and village, bespeak an ideal of life beyond the reach of less primitive communities.

Hatstands, gong stands, newspaper racks, fancy baskets, music stands, cabinets, fancy tables, flower stands, writing tables, lamp stands, Roman chairs, overmantels, screens, etc., are produced in bamboo work, and the peculiar originality and quaintness of Japanese and Burmese art is admirably allied to the requirements of tasteful American people.

The manufactured articles are characterized by the admirable qualities of lightness, artistic grace and utility, as will be seen from our illustrations. They are usually finished in lacquer or gilt. The Roman chair in lacquered bamboo combines these



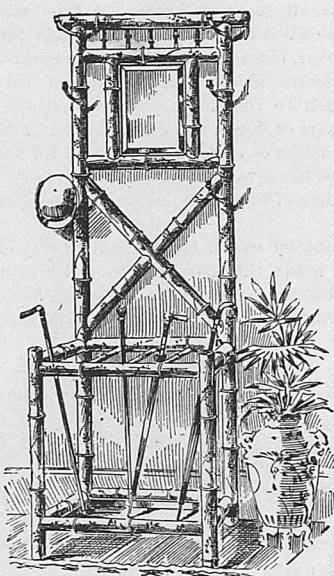
BAMBOO ARM-CHAIR.

excellent qualities. The toughness and strength of the material are well exhibited in the design of the hall stand. The bamboo table, also illustrated, shows how the manufacturer can utilize artistic grace in the construction of this utilitarian article. The bamboo book case is simplicity itself. In fact, a great deal of bamboo furniture is most ingeniously contrived, rivalling the marvelous dexterity of the Burmese and Japanese, who on the slightest pretext can construct from the strips of this material the most fanciful creations of the Eastern imagination.

We may have lacquered or gilt bamboo cornice-poles, as well as split bamboo for dadoing and window decoration. As will be inferred, bamboo furniture holds an honorable place in modern decoration. For exquisite daintiness and beauty of outline it is the furniture of all others for the summer cottage, and a few pieces will at once create a comfortable, reposeful and artistic apartment.

The most enjoyable part of every summer home is the veranda, and for this nothing can take the place of bamboo furniture, as the pieces are not only artistic, but are so light a child can move them, and this is a valuable quality in selecting things for out-

of-door use. Nothing can be finer for such fresh air parlor than a bamboo couch, a combination of half-reclining chair and lounge, which, filled with



HALL STAND IN BAMBOO.

movable cushions, makes an ideal resting place. The other pieces might include bamboo easy chairs and ottomans, bamboo tea-table, bamboo work-table, etc. For screens, there are heavy linen awning, or rattan or bamboo screens that roll up, and a swinging hammock and China matting will complete the list of furnishings.

INTERIOR NOVELTIES.

BY CARRIE MAY ASHTON.

ONE writer, in speaking of this subject, says: "Our homes are not museums, where should be gathered together as large a collection as possible



BAMBOO TABLE.

of all sorts of furnishings, but they are places where we are to live and breathe; where bodies are to develop and minds to be influenced by the subtle har-

monies about us, instead of being cramped and depressed owing to the overcrowding that so many regard as a necessary adjunct of home furnishing."

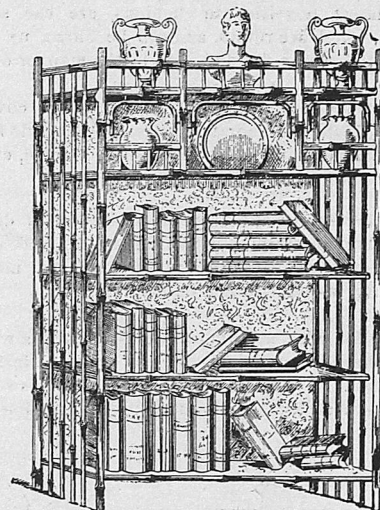
New dining-rooms have the woodwork finished in cinnamon, nutmeg and copper tones.

A pleasant dining-room in a modern home has the walls covered with the chrysanthemum pattern in wall-paper, while the woodwork is finished in dark nutmeg tones.

Among the new designs in figured wall-paper, nothing is more striking than huge yellow poppies, peonies, and the monkshood design, which is a pretty floral pattern in soft pinks, yellows and greens, with a rich shade of brown.

A dainty room lately furnished for a young girl by her thoughtful mother is so truly artistic that many will be glad to copy it.

It is a pansy room, and the prettiest one imaginable. The entire furnishings are in white, lavender, violet and purple, with here and there a dash of gold. The snowy curtains have pansies embroidered



BAMBOO BOOK-CASE.

on them. The carpet is violet and white, and the exquisite bedspread is embroidered with pansies. On the pillow-shams is the quotation: "Pansies for Thought."

The bed, dresser, chairs, and toilet table were treated to two coats of ivory enamel paint, touched up with gilt. The canopy for the bed is of violet India silk. The articles for the dressing table are white decorated with pansies. The chair-rolls, mantel drape, etc., are all ornamented with the same lovely flower.

In one corner is a rattan tea-table, covered with a pansy-embroidered cloth, and on it is placed the most cunning tete-a-tete set of china, exquisitely painted.

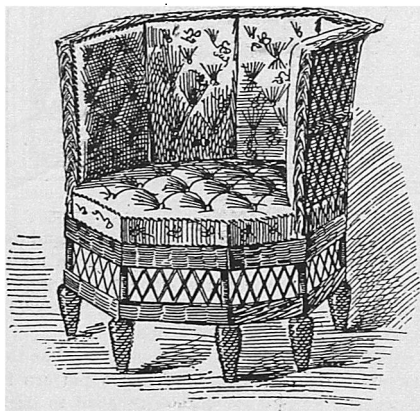
A pretty wall decoration was recently seen. The walls were first covered with plain pink paper. Cheap Nottingham lace was pasted over that, and the effect was most excellent.

One end of the lace was fastened to the wall, and

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

the rest of it was carried along by allowing it to drape evenly over a broom handle.

A novel and attractive dressing table was fashioned from a large packing box and covered with an old sheet. Over this was gathered a valance of dotted muslin, which was purchased at the low



OCTOGON CHAIR IN RATTAN.

price of 15c. The top was covered neatly with a piece of muslin stretched tightly over the worn sheet, and finished about the edge with a short muslin ruffle. An old-fashioned oval mirror had the frame gilded and was hung over the dressing-table, after which it was draped in a most original way. Cascades of the muslin, which were made by fastening two bands of the muslin eight inches deep into a band, were allowed to fall on either side of the mirror in fluffy billows. Nothing could be more dainty than this inexpensive and simple toilet-table.

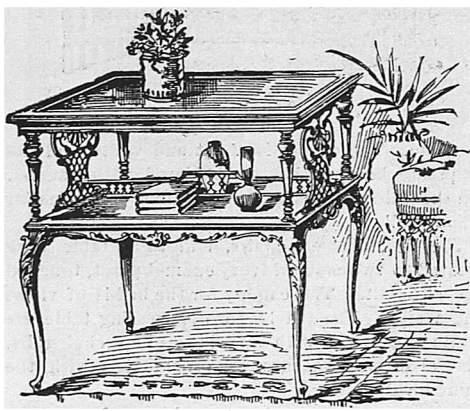
The latest novelties in cushions are the air-bolsters, which are round, and can be blown up or allowed to become flat and limp in the manner of a football.

The price of an air-bolster in the plain ticking cover is \$6.00. Plain or elaborate covers can be made for them from Turkish stuffs, China silks, pongee, cretonne or satine.

Very lovely are the screens covered with dull green velvet and framed in white and gilt.

Many of these screens are embroidered most beautifully in conventional designs.

A new fad with artistic people is to hang a welcoming harp, or orchal harmonical, upon the inside of the door. When the door moves, a soft, sweet melody is heard, which is caused by the striking of



DOUBLE LEAF DRAWING ROOM TABLE.

small metal balls, which are hung upon wires, upon the sounding board.

A pleasing idea where it is desired to carry out a certain color throughout the decoration of a room is to have pillows covered with silesia the chosen color (pink, blue, violet, yellow or pale green, as the

case may be), and make the cases of India linen or linen lawn, using the sheerest quality. Ruffle them all around and edge with narrow linen lace. Shams are not needed when these pillow cases are used, but an extra pair of pillows will be found necessary to use at night.

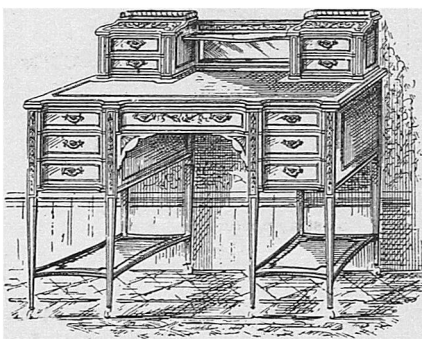
One of the latest fads in interior decoration is the application of needlework on pottery. Vases, jars, etc., are made in this manner, and are decidedly effective.

A fruit jar, or quaint shaped pieces of pottery are used for the foundation. Cardboard is fitted over the foundation, and this is covered with silk, velvet, or plush, and embroidered or painted in a realistic design. Pansies, clover leaves, ivy vines, begonia and primrose blossoms are all very pleasing designs for this work.

Divans piled high with cushions are as popular as ever. Corner divans are easily made and quite inexpensive if made at home. A fitted mattress, filled with curled hair, is needed for this purpose. For the cover, chigimi cloth, Japanese crepe or cretonne answers nicely. A valance of the same should reach to the floor. Several pillows filled with feathers or down, and covered with China silk, silkoline, satine or cretonne are needed for the back and ends of the divan.

Make some of them circular and others square.

A combination couch and case for party or light dresses is made the usual height and width of a couch and about six feet long. It opens like a box, and is lined throughout with fine manilla paper and



INLAID ROSEWOOD WRITING TABLE

then with muslin or silesia. The top is upholstered and covered with a handsome drapery. Casters are on the bottom so that it can be moved easily.

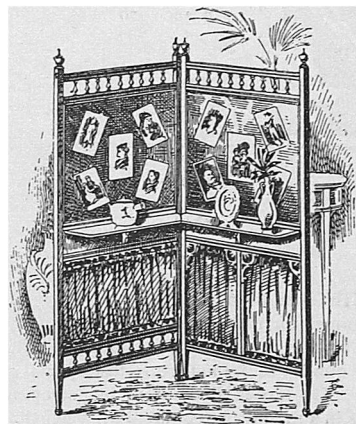
At the foot of the bed in your bed-room have a long low lounge with several pillows, covered with white linen, as is the lounge itself. These may all have different designs in outline, or this may have a cover in bolting sheeting same as doons, with pillow in old pink and green.

Between the two windows place the dressing bureau, which may be one of the new style with long glass at one side, and at the other the raised drawers, giving a large square for the many dainty things required for use as well as beauty. This square allows for a charming white linen lawn bureau scarf embroidered in tiny sprays of hawthorn or peach blossoms scattered over it and trimmed with delicate lace all around and lined with pale green or pink silk. A small round cushion, covered with the colored silk, with linen lawn cover and design the same as scarf, this is trimmed with very narrow tufts of ribbon around the cushion, loops and ends falling to the edges of the lace. Two scent bottles of cut glass, with puff box for centre, complete this charming effect. If the mantle has a cabinet top, place here and there a few choice pieces of bric-a-brac with an India scarf to break severe lines.

Have the fire arranged for lighting and a heavy bamboo or rattan wood holder at one side, with shovel, tongs and poker stand at the other side.

If this room is used in winter, instead of matting use a large Smyrna rug or an ingrain square

and soft colored ornamental sofa rug for sofa, with pillows of soft silks or plush. Dull old pink Tainkun is especially suitable for window and door drapery, with a satin sheeting bedspread of old pink, having the draperies of the bed the same. Small rugs scattered here and there before lounge and chairs give warmth. To relieve the bareness of



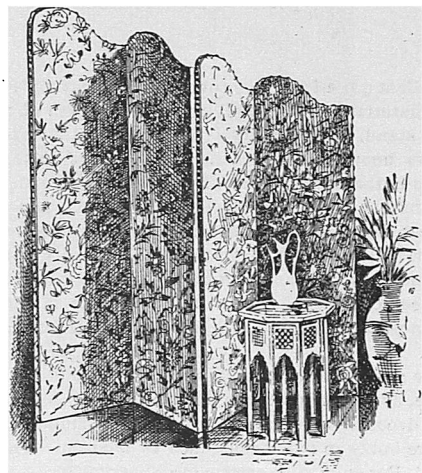
TWO-FOLD SCREEN, WITH SILK PLUSH PANELS FOR PHOTOS.

the walls, hang photogravure and photographs and etchings in the lovely oaken frames that now come in broad and narrow styles.

A bracket with India silk drapery, with a pretty bust or quaint vases is effective, particularly if always filled with a spray of flowers, whether wild or cultivated. One's own individual taste may suggest many small additions to make this room more cosy and comfortable.

In this room of mine I run riot, and get together all I admire, regardless of style, clime or period.

A tall coffee stool of hexagonal shape, inlaid with pearl, stands near my writing table, and holds a large palm in a hammered brass pot. The floor is covered with an Eastern carpet, and the low chairs in different favorite materials. A Mushrabayah screen stands near the door, its delicate tracery forming a background to a low couch covered with red and gold material. The mantelpiece is high; above it stands an upright mirror framed in Mushrabayah and pearl. The broad mantelshelf is covered with a slight drapery of dull red, and on it all sorts and conditions of foreign pottery, grotesque, little brass gods from India, a pile of glittering lacquered multi-colored bangles on a quaint peacock stand, and other souvenirs of travel, find a home. The fireplace is low and open, and one side is cosily



FOUR-FOLD SCREEN, COVERED WITH LEATHER PAPER.

fenced in by my own invention of a fireside bookcase. Here I gather round me my favorite books, and here enjoy those long, rambling chats which—as long as the topic is not other people's frailties and follies—are often such a rest and refreshment in a busy life.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

A long, low cupboard, panelled with gold, runs along the other side of the room, the top forming a field for the display of photographic frames, beaten copper plates, pottery from Gibraltar, and all kinds of treasures, while, in the possession of plenty of cupboards for one's "things," lies a joy only a true woman can know.

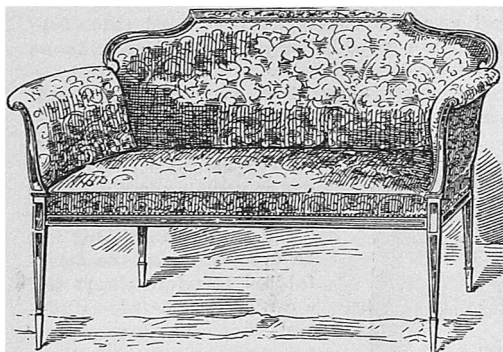
Space fails me to tell of the possessions which adorn the walls—green and brown pottery lizards, queerly decorated plates from Mooltan and Tangier, peacock feather screens, panels of old Turkish embroidery, grotesque Chinese worked figures—nothing "bought to fill up," but lovingly collected and increasingly valued.

NEW RIBBON WORK.

BY ELLEN T. MASTERS.

INGENUITY is now busy devising various ways in which skillful fingers can utilise the baby ribbons, for which there has been such a rage of late, in the adornment of embroidery and fancy knick-knacks of all kinds. This is scarcely to be wondered at when the enormous variety of colors and shades in which these ribbons are to be had is remembered, and they certainly seem better suited for the decoration of fancy work than for using in hats and bonnets, and on dresses, where they have decidedly a straggling and weedy appearance. Many baby ribbons are of dull silk merely corded, others are satin; more frequently than not, whatever may be the centre, the edge is corded, or is more fanciful, but the width seldom exceeds a quarter of an inch. Velvet is to be had in and about the same width; and in many cases, when used with the silk, contributes greatly to the richness of the effect.

Ribbon work, as it is at present, may be divided into two classes; that executed with ribbon pure and simple, and that in which the ribbons, while still forming the main part of the decoration, are employed upon silk velvet or linen, and held in place with fancy stitches of colored silks. In the ribbon embroideries executed by our great grand-



ARTISTIC DRAWING-ROOM DIVAN.

mothers, it is the finer makes still that were utilized, such as could easily be drawn through the material with the aid of a large needle. Except when the coarsest kinds of canvas are employed, baby ribbons are unsuitable for this class of work, and the designs worked are consequently of a very simple nature without many curves and windings.

Such a pattern is given on page 188, where the background is of frase-colored silk. As most amateurs nowadays like something that is little trouble to execute, they will be glad to know that no previously traced design is needed for the execution of a border of this sort. Two straight and parallel lines are first ruled on the silk with a piece of white or colored chalk, about three inches apart. Then along each of these lines is tacked a piece of the ribbon of any color fancy may suggest, care only being needed to ensure its being quite straight. At half-inch intervals along these two lines dots of chalk are made, to serve as a guide for placing the groups of three stitches which hold down the ribbon. Along the outer edge of the border it is as well to place the stitches rather further apart to avoid a crowded appearance. The eye of most workers is, or should be, sufficiently well-trained

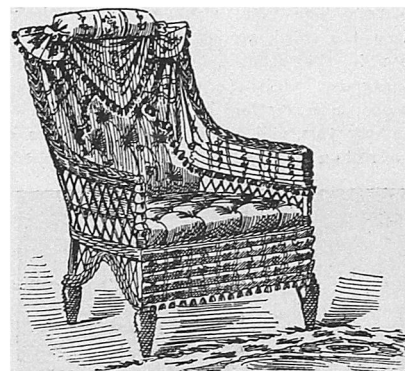
to allow these stitches to be made all the same length, and no guide should be needed either for the placing of the side stitches which, while about an eighth of an inch from the longer and middle stitch at the top, are passed through the same hole at the bottom. These three stitches are taken just over the corded edge of the ribbon, and so one side of it becomes firmly held down to the silk. Now the worker must take her piece of chalk again, and make dots at intervals of three inches along the inner edge of the straight lines of ribbon. The dots on each band should be opposite each other. Some baby ribbon of another color should now be laid upon the silk diagonally between two straight bands; that is, from a dot on one line to the next dot towards the left on the opposite line, then to the next mark on the first line towards the left, and so on all along. Where the ribbon touches a dot it must be folded over so as to set flat before starting on its next journey across the material. Thus is formed a zigzag pattern which in the original was turned into a series of squares by a similar set of vandykes, the ribbon for which touches all the



THREE-FLAP LEAF DRAWING-ROOM TABLE.

dots that were left unnoticed in the last part of the pattern. Any stray needlefuls of silk may be used for the embroidery—no small advantage for the worker who has a large hoard of odds and ends—and short lengths of gold thread or chenille may also be turned to good account. A Leviathan cross-stitch is convenient for holding down the ribbons where they cross one another, and from the angles beyond it should spring eight long daisy, or picot, stitches. Beyond the picots, the ribbon is held down with alternately straight and slanting stitches worked with silk of two colors, and small half-stars of the same two colors are placed between the

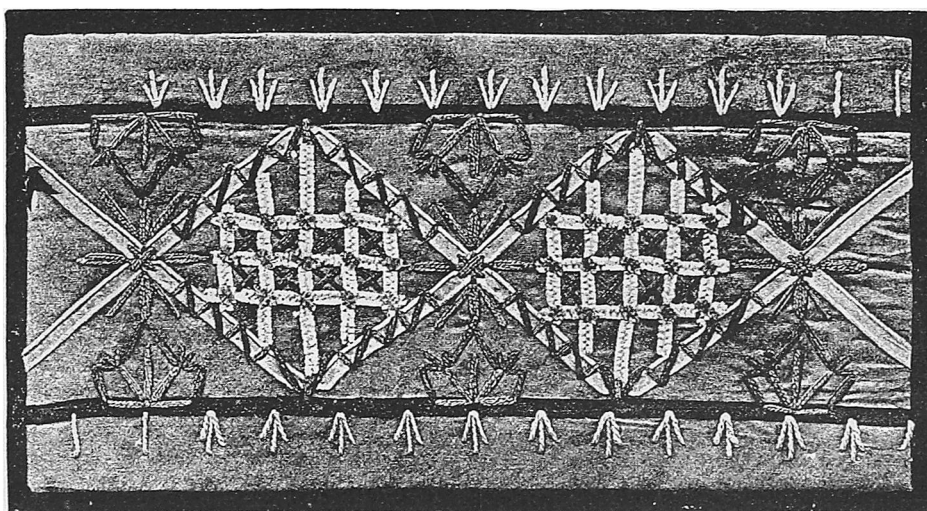
worker has a choice of many ways of doing this. A lattice-work of Arrasene may be employed, as in the illustration, or a small leaf or flower of some fanciful design may be preferred, while a star



RATTAN EASY CHAIR.

rather more elaborate than that between the squares may be embroidered here, and gives an excellent effect. A line of gold thread run along the middle of each band of ribbon will be found to brighten the work very considerably, and small beads and spangles may be added, if desired. Such work as this is suitable for the ornamentation of many fancy articles, such as work-bags, book-covers, or glove or handkerchief sachets.

The next three illustrations show a way of utilizing baby ribbon that is totally different from the first, inasmuch as that the design itself is formed with ribbons only, no foundation material being needed. The work recalls the paper plaiting used in Kindergarten teaching. The small pattern at the top of this page is the simplest of all given here, and would make up in charming little scent sachets, photograph and card cases, note book covers, and similar small things for bazars. Ribbon of two colors should be used, and by preference these should be light in tint, such as pale pink and heliotrope, green or blue. The easiest way of managing the work is as follows: Take a drawing board, and arrange upon it a number of pieces of ribbon all of one color, and of the length required for the work with about two inches over. Set these bands side by side longitudinally, and hold them down to the board at each end with a pin or a tin tack driven in so that it can be easily removed. Drawing pins answer better than anything else, but so large a number as are required for good sized patterns is not always at hand. Now begin the weaving, darning the second set horizontally over and under the first set



BAND EMBROIDERED WITH SILKS AND BABY RIBBON.

angles of the squares and against the straight lines of ribbon. Any stitches that can help to hold down the ribbon must be arranged to do so. The next thing to be done is to fill the open squares. The

of ribbons, taking the bands over certain lines and under others, according to the requirements of the pattern. To give an example: In the top row in the pattern shown here, the horizontal heliotrope